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June 19, 2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LIDA WALL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM EIU

CHARLESTON - Lida Wall, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at Eastern Illinois University, has announced that she is retiring as of July 31 after six years of service.

"I appreciate the opportunity I was given this past year to serve as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, but I feel it is time for me to pursue other interests," said Wall, who has served as interim provost since Sept. 15, 2000.

She added, "It was an interesting and extremely busy nine months, but I am quite proud of the results accomplished in the academic affairs area. I am pleased to note that during this time there have been many outstanding pockets of excellence in the university, many of which are now displayed in the academic affairs on-line newsletter."

Prior to being named interim provost last year, Wall spent five years as dean of

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Eastern's College of Sciences. "These were not only enjoyable years, but productive ones as well. The College of Sciences is a terrific college, and I have enjoyed working with the faculty in the college and will miss my interactions with them."

Her major accomplishments as dean of the College of Sciences included increasing undergraduate research opportunities, restructuring the Department of Biological Sciences, establishing base funding to purchase scientific equipment, increasing funds for conference travel, increasing support for faculty development through grant competitions, initiating an annual celebration of accomplishments of science students and faculty through ScienceFest and implementing the Master of Science in Natural Sciences degree program.

Eastern President Carol Surles commented, "Dr. Wall has served the university well at this critical juncture in our history. Most notably, she has provided excellent leadership in planning for distance delivery of courses and programs using current technologies. Her calm and clear-headed approach to administration has made her an asset at a time when new technological initiatives could have created a great deal of anxiety. Thanks to Dr. Wall's and Dr. Robert Augustine's leadership of our TEDE (Technology-Enhanced and -Delivered Education) Committee, I am delighted that we are on track to accomplish our objectives in this important realm.

"Indeed, Dr. Wall has contributed immeasurably to achieving all of our six strategic goals. On behalf of the entire university, I extend our appreciation to her for her willingness to step forward on short notice and provide support and counsel to the

many components that report to academic affairs. She has carried out her duties with unflagging grace, and for that we are most grateful. It goes without saying that Eastern will lose a talented and dedicated administrator as Dr. Wall leaves for her much-deserved retirement. We wish her a peaceful and satisfying retirement."

Prior to being named dean of the College of Sciences in 1995, Wall served nine years as chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science at The Ohio State University in Columbus. She earned a master's degree in audiology from the University of Wyoming in Laramie and a Ph.D. in speech and hearing sciences from The Ohio State University and is a certified audiologist and major leader in her field.

Last year, she was elected a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, which is one of the highest forms of recognition of an individual's accomplishments and is a public declaration of outstanding professional achievements. Her career has included extensive work in graduate education with the Council of Graduate Programs in Communications Disorders and Sciences and with the Council Academic Accreditation, which accredits graduate programs for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.